

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, December 17, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin**

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd**

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody, Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, Helen Wolff, and Phillip Chen

**III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin**

**The Commission approves the November 19, 2009 minutes with the following adjustment (Gasco/Perrou):**

**Add Action item to Ms. Coto's comment in the public comments section. Adjustments made and minutes redistributed to Commissioners. Approved copy is available on the Commission's web page.**

**IV. Chair's Report**

**MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting** – At the meeting on December 8, 2009, the group discussed the following issues reported by Jerry Lubin and Terry Lewis:

- **New SAAC Co-Chairs** – SAAC 8 appointed two new Co-Chairs and a second Co-Chair for SAAC 5.
- **Official Regular Meeting Time** – The group decided 11:30 am – 1 pm is the official meeting time.
- **Legislative Research** – Ms. Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst requested each SAAC evaluate the impact of budget cuts on client services in their service areas. Ms. Rajlal will use this information to communicate to the needs of Los Angeles County legislative bodies in preparation for the upcoming state budget.

Celinda Jungheim, SAAC 5 Co-Chair volunteered to coordinate gathering the information and distributing a report to Ms. Rajlal.

- **Use of DMH Interns** – After discussing the facts and availability of using the DMH interns, the Co-Chairs discussed advantages and disadvantages of utilizing interns in their perspective service areas.

**Executive Committee Meeting Highlights** – Frank Baron, Commissioner, reported the following:

- Commissioner Caballero invited Ms. Laura Trejo, Los Angeles City Manager for Aging Services to present at the May 2010 full Commission meeting
- Mr. Caballero continues to network older adult contacts to schedule more presentations
- The Bylaws Committee will resume in January 2010.

## V. **Commissioners' Reports**

**Commissioner Gasco** – Larry Gasco thanked the staff at San Antonio Mental Health Clinic for hosting the meeting. Mr. Gasco spoke of the progress the clinic has made since it has moved to a neighborhood more suitable for children. Mr. Gasco also thanked Dr. Tony Beliz and Ana Suarez for their efforts toward the clinic move and new offices.

**Commissioner Caballero** – George Caballero announced LA County Fire Department is working to develop an emergency call number specifically for older adults similar to the 911 call procedure.

**Commissioner Sofro** – Victoria Sofro reported the following Connections for Life Program and Conference details:

- Program under the leadership of Kecia McDaniel
- Commitments from 12 organizations for conference
- Conference date is April 7, 2010 at the CA Endowment Center
- Board letter filed for DMH to cover conference costs.

**Commissioner Huffman** – Delores Huffman reported the housing program application completion is active and filling up fast. More details on housing are in the following report:

### **MHSA Housing Program**

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of December 15, 2009 is shown below:

#### **Finalizing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment**

- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- KIWA Apartments
- Parker Hotel
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project
- Swarthy World Society
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Willis Avenue Apartments

#### **Public Posting in Process**

- Menlo Family Housing
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- PWC Family Housing
- New Genesis Apartments

#### **Technical Submission under Review**

- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- NoHo Senior Villas

#### **Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- Osborne Place Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA Residences

#### **Approved for Funding by the State**

- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

### **Housing Trust Fund**

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, nine projects are in operation as of December 15, 2009. The remaining three projects include Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center, both slated to open in fall 2010 and Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011.

On November 18, 2009, the Department requested additional information from nine respondents to the Request for Information (RFI) released August 25, 2009 who appeared to have eligible projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The August 25, 2009 RFI was interested in determining if there were any potential contractors with demonstrated capability and interest in providing on-site supportive services in permanent supportive housing or shared housing projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The nine respondents were asked to submit the additional information by December 14, 2009. After careful review of the additional information, the Department will determine which respondents to enter into competitive negotiations.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding**

Upon recommendations from the MHSA Housing Advisory Board (Advisory Board), the Department plans to re-open its Expression of Interest to leverage NSP funding with the MHSA Housing Program funding. The Advisory Board recommended utilizing \$1.2 millions of accrued interest from the MHSA Housing Program funding.

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding**

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department was awarded \$51,051 to provide rental/eviction and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the current economic condition. At

present, the funding is offered countywide in order to reach anyone in need. As records indicate, the funding will be fully utilized by December 31, 2009.

### **Housing Trust Fund**

In keeping with the holiday spirit, the Housing Policy & Development Unit of Countywide Housing, Employment, and Education Resource Development adopted a family who resides at one of the projects funded through the Housing Trust Fund Program. The team members bought and wrapped gifts consisting of toys, clothing and household ware for the five-member household (grandmother, 6-month old, 2 and 3-year-old granddaughters and 13-year grandson). Team members plan to travel on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 and deliver gifts to the family.

## **VI. Special Presentation – San Antonio Mental Health Center**

Ana Suarez, District Chief, commented on San Antonio Mental Health Clinic's relocation process and the success it is having in the community. Ms. Suarez introduced Phyllis Noriega, LCSW, Clinic Manager who spoke on the following clinic demographics, programs, and services:

- Co-located with Department of Public Social Services for three years
- Provides services for children (CalWORKs program participants)
- 7 clinical therapist for children and 2 psychiatrist
- Clients now on waitlist since clinic move to an accessible area much safer for children.
- CalWORKs funding is uncertain because of state budget cuts; growth is on hold
- Community consists of 70% Hispanic and clinic staffs are mostly Hispanic.
- Referrals from Department of Children and Family Services serve ages 0-5.
- Future funding from MHSA will provide, program for child 0-5 and parent Diatec work, prevention programs, TAY programs for young teenage mothers, and staff trainings.

Ms. Manuela Sobampo, a consumer from the clinic, stated, "Healing comes from treatment and services." Ms. Sobampo also shared her success story how she was able to move away from a domestic

violence situation and provide a safe environment for her children with assistance from the clinic.

## VII. **Departmental Report – Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director**

Dr. Shaner reported on the following:

- **DMH** - The department currently faces a challenge to forecast the unexpected degree of additional shortfall due to the reduction in sales tax revenue.

Further cuts that impact DMH are not likely due to the shortfall in state budget; however, the demand for services such as juvenile justice will be greater.

- **MHSA** – Additional funding for transformation opportunities has ended. Current programs are configured to receive funding from MHSA. The Department continues to assess people to fit into the programs that best serve them, such as FSPs and Wellness Centers.

The Innovations Plan was approved by state.

- **The Alcohol and Drug Administration Program/DMH MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)** – The agreement is ready for signature. It identifies the sources of funding for each entity and organizes where funding is to be spent.
- **Veterans/DMH** – Veterans program is fragmented and many people fall between the cracks. The Department is working with veterans to develop programs that serve both current veterans and ones returning from the Gulf.

## VIII. **Community and SAAC Reports - None**

### IX. **Public Comments**

- William Legere – Question: Where is the WET and Innovations money going?
- Maria N. Tan – Coordinated the Perspectives on Advocacy training. The training had a good turn out with participation from consumers and family members. The learning experience is always generous from the Department of Mental Health.

- Mark Karmatz – Commented, the conference on mental health for children needs to have a consumer perspective present.

**X. Meeting Adjourned for Site Tour**

**XI. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION**

**Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Noon – 2:30 pm  
500 W. Temple Street  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Room 739  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if  
you need more information**

Ch/ch